

Region 55

800 MHz Regional Public Safety

Planning Committee

(New York – Buffalo Area)

SUPPORT FOR RULEMAKING REQUEST - FILED ELECTRONICALLY

March 17, 2006

Re: WT Docket 02-55

Dear Mrs. Dortch,

The total population of FCC Region 55 is estimated to be about (3) million people — approximately 15% (2,843,937 divided by 19,190,115) of New York State's total population. Region 55 is comprised of Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates Counties. A Region 55 Regional Planning Committee (RPC) membership includes Public Safety professionals from 17 counties, who represent the Region's first-responder community and work collaboratively in an open forum to achieve these goals.

We strongly agree with NARPC that the goal of providing the Commission a priority matrix will ensure the availability of spectrum to those public safety entities in most need as spectrum is made available. We concur with NARPC that use of a Priority Matrix to assign available spectrum is a well-proven and well-defined tool that deals fairly with arbitration between competing applications to provide an equitable resolution. We also agree that the RPCs, through their established spectrum-management structure, are eminently qualified to fairly and equitably manage the distribution of spectrum to our nation's first responders. Localities and smaller agencies would benefit greatly from this equitable treatment.

Using existing RPC resources currently employed for 800-MHz regional planning activities and permitting the RPCs the autonomy to use these tools for prioritization of spectrum in their respective regions is a recipe for success. Our

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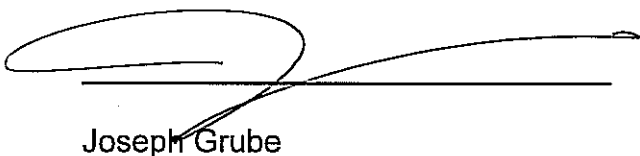
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concerns also concur with those of NARPC relative to what would likely happen if the post-rebanding spectrum were disseminated through the current frequency-coordination process exclusively. We agree that a large number of public safety-first responders would be deprived of the spectrum they need, because the current frequency-coordination process would be unable to handle the increased load. We concur that the threat of an application-submission frenzy could cause a log jam and would not be in the best interest of those whom the RPC is to serve. Allowing the RPC to employ well-proven procedures will augment the present frequency-coordination process to enable an unimpeded distribution of spectrum to our nation's first responders.

We respectfully urge the Commission to give the NARPC Petition for Rule Making due consideration and to grant its request to enable the use of a Priority Matrix and to permit the RPCs to manage the distribution of spectrum within their respective regions without usurping the Commission's authority.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Grube', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Joseph Grube

Chair – FCC Region 55 700-MHz and 800 MHz Regional Planning Committee

cc:

*Mr. Michael Wilhelm, Chief, Public Safety & Critical Infrastructure Division
Steven Devine, Chair, National Association of Regional Planning Committees
(NARPC)*